

July 7, 2022

RE: Bill 18-22, Noise Control - Leaf Removal Equipment – Amendments (Public Hearing Sept. 20th)

Testimony by: John Parrish

Dear Councilmember,

The use of gas-powered blowers has got to end – the sooner the better. The peace, serenity and health of my community and the County as a whole are affected daily by the noise and air pollution emanating from these devices. Please pass this bill!

From March thru December blowers are used for yard cleanup in my Woodside Park neighborhood. Several times each week my wife and I are subjected to breathing exhaust emissions and enduring excessive noise. Seven households within 100 yards of our home including two that abut our lot employ yard maintenance crews that use gas-powered blowers. Some of the crews run multiple blowers at the same time. Three of the homes are large corner lots that take a long time to clean-up. This is particularly unnerving when we are attempting to work from home. It is even more intolerable to be working in the yard or simply attempting to relax outside. Citizens should not have to endure this imposition.

It is well known that exhaust emissions from gas-powered blowers generate fumes and particulate matter that harm lungs. The negative health effects of air pollution are well documented for all age groups. However, bad air quality has a disproportionate impact on children and senior citizens. Isn't it time we protected all Montgomery residents from these sources of air and noise pollution?

The daily noise in my neighborhood from blowers has generated many complaints on my community list-serve by homeowners pleading with their neighbors to consider another approach such as using electric blowers. This has created much tension. Passing this bill will help increase peace among neighbors.

The grant program to help offset the cost of transitioning to electric equipment is a fair and sensible way to compensate owners of gas-powered blowers and vacuums. This will also encourage a transition to more eco-friendly yards and maintenance practices. My wife and I eliminated our lawn by converting yard space to flower and vegetable gardens and natural habitat. We never mow nor do we use blowers. By the way, gas-powered lawn mowers also emit air and noise pollution. They deserve to be regulated more strictly too. Please follow in the footsteps of other communities that found a way to regulate gas-powered equipment. Please enact Bill 18-22.

Thank you for considering my comments and please pass the damn bill.

Sincerely,

John Parrish